

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W

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R 170908Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7271

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,JO

SUBJ: JORDAN REACTION TO WEST BANK UNREST

RE: (A) JERUSALEM 346, (B) AMMAN 0773 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY CHECKED RUMOR REPORTED PARA 5 REFTEL A WITH DAMEL SHAREEF, CHAIRMAN OF AD DOUSTOUR NEWSPAPER WHO GOJ OCCASIONALLY USES AS ROVING AMBASSADOR AND WHO, WITH GRAND KHADI SHEIKH GHOSHA, DESIGNATED TO VISIT MOSLEM COUNTRIES TO CONSULT ON JERUSALEM ISSUES (REF B). ACCORDING TO SHAREEF, HIS AND GHOSHA'S MISSION PRIMARILY IS TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPLEMENT GOJ EXPENDITURES IN REPAIRING 1969 FIRE DAMAGE TO AL AWSA MOSGUE. THEY WILL ALSO EXPLAIN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON WEST BANK ARISING FROM ATTEMPTS OF ISRAELIS TO PRAY ON RARAM-ESH-SHARIF (TEMPLE MOUNT), BUT THAT IS NOT CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE VISITS TO MOSLEM STATES. MOREOVER, THOSE VISITS
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(DELAYED BECAUSE OF GHOSHA'S ILLNESS) NOW SCHEDULED

TO BEGIN IN EARLY APRIL AND EXTEND IN STAGES OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL TRIPS, THUS REMOVING FROM EXERCISE GREAT SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT CURRENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON WEST BANK THAT ORGANIZING GREEN MARCH A LA MOROCCO WOULD IMPLY.

2. DISCUSSING OTHER ASPECTS OF WEST BANK DEVELOPMENTS, SHAREEF SAID HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE SYMPATHY DEMONSTRATIONS BY EAST BANK STUDENTS, BUT HE THOUGHT GOJ WOULD OPPOSE SUCH A MOVE BECAUSE "THE DEMONSTRATIONS MIGHT PROVE CONTAGIOUS TO OTHER THINGS HERE." (FYI: EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN STUDENTS DID WANT TO STAGE SUCH A DEMONSTRATION, BUT THAT THEY EITHER WERE TALKED OUT OF IT BY GOJ AUTHORITIES "BECAUSE THE STUDENTS' NOBLE AIMS WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY JORDAN'S ENEMIES", OR, ACCORDING TO ONE VERSION, THE DEMONSTRATION WAS NIPPED IN THE BUD BY ARRESTING A SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS.) SHAREEF ALSO REMARKED THAT HE LEARNED FROM VISITING WEST BANK CONTACTS 15 MARCH OF RUMOR CIRCULATING ON WEST BANK THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT SEIZE OCCASION OF CURRENT DISTURBANCES THERE TO POSTPONE NEXT MONTH'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO PREVENT WHAT GOI BELIEVES WOULD BE VICTORY IN LARGE NUMBER OF CASES OF PLO OR PLO SYMPATHIZER CANDIDATES.
PICKERING

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